

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please CANCEL claims 41-50, 62-65, 68-78, and 80-83, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please ADD new claims 315-318, as follows:

1-314. (Cancelled)

315. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:

a first articular component having a first articular surface and a first bearing surface opposing said first articular surface, said first articular surface including a projection surrounded by a planar surface; and

a second articular component having a second articular surface and a second bearing surface opposing said second articular surface, said second articular surface including a recess surrounded by a conical surface.

316. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 315, wherein said conical surface is tapered at an angle relative to a plane oriented parallel with said planar surface.

317. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint according to claim 315, wherein said projection includes one of a surface depression, cavity or groove.

318. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:

a first articular component having first articular surface and a first bearing surface opposing said first articular surface, said first articular surface including a projection surrounded by a planar surface, said first articular surface and said first bearing surface being separated by a first pair of laterally facing surfaces and a first pair of axially facing surfaces;

a second articular component having a second articular surface and a second bearing surface opposing said second articular surface, said second articular surface including a recess surrounded by a conical surface, said second articular surface and said second bearing surface being separated by a second pair of laterally facing surfaces and a second pair of axially facing surfaces; and

a channel defined in at least one of said first and second pair of laterally facing surfaces.